

Message Text

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11

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-04

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8428

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T USNATO 5964

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: AHG BRIEFING OF THE NAC OCTOBER 25

REF: A) MBFR VIENNA 342; B) MBFR VIENNA 348

MOSCOW PLEASE PASS TO COUNSELLOR SONNENFELDT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HARTMAN

1. AHG REPRESENTATIVES FROM VIENNA BRIEFED THE NAC ON OCTOBER 25
CONCERNING MBFR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.
WINTER (LUXEMBOURG) SEVED AS AHG SPOKESMAN, ACCOMPANIED BY GRANDE
(CANADA) AND VARNO (NORWAY).

2. PANSА (ACTING SYG) BEGAN THE DISCUSSION NOTING PRESS REPORTS
FROM VIENNA THAT THE EAST HAD INFORMED THE PRESS THAT THE EAST HAD
MADE A COMPROMISE
PROPOSAL ON MBFR.

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3. WINTER DESCRIBED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATING
SESSION ALONG THE LINES OF REF A. IN ADDITION, HE DESCRIBED TO NAC
THE EASTERN FIRST STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL OF OCTOBER 15, 1974 ALONG
THE LINES OF AHG PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT (REF B).

HE POINTED OUT THAT HAG ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATES THAT EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL IS SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS EASTERN PROPOSAL OF NOVEMBER 8, 1973. IT DIVERGES FROM SOME SUGGESTIONS MADE IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, BUT ALL ELEMENTS ALREADY PRESENT IN SOME FORM. REGARDING FUTURE AHG TACTICS, WINTER GAVE A DIFFERENT EMPHASIS TO GROUND FORCE REDEFINITION THAN CONTAINED IN PARA 5 C REF A. HE STATED THAT THE AHG INTENDED TO APPROACH THE COMMON CEILING ON GROUND FORCES THROUGH A DISCUSSION OF GROUND FORCE REDEFINITION. HE ADDED THAT IN THIS CONNECTION, THE EAST WILL PROBABLY RAISE THE AIR ISSUE.

4. PECK (UK) SAID HE WAS SLIGHTLY WORRIED ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL HAD LEAKED AS A "COMPROMISE". HE HOPED THAT OUR SPOKESMEN WOULD HAVE IN MIND THE AHG REPORT, AS WELL AS PRESS GUIDANCE APPROVED BY AHG YESTERDAY, WHICH CALLED FOR OUR SIDE NOT TO GIVE DETAILS AND TO SAY THAT THERE IS NO NEW PROPOSAL ON THE TABLE.

5. DESTAERCKE (BELGIUM) SAID HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED PECK'S REMARK. WE MUST AVOID NOTION THAT EASTERN PROPOSAL IS COMPROMISE. THIS IS TRUE FOR CAPITALS ALSO. HE THOUGHT SOVIETS WERE NOW MOVING TO A POSITION OF IMMOBILITY, AND THOUGHT WE NEEDED TO GET THIS ACROSS CLEARLY. HE SAID THAT, WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE TACTICS, THE ALLIES MUST RAPIDLY MEET THIS NEW SOVIET MOVEMENT. HE STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS THE IDEA OF NOW EMPHASIZING THE COMMON CEILING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PUBLIC WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS MOVE. THE ALLIES MUST UNDERLINE THEIR PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVE. GRANDE NOTED THAT THE POLISH SPOKESMAN HAD SIMPLY SAID THE PACT HAD INTRODUCED A NEW PROPOSAL, BUT THE POLE HAD DECLINED TO GIVE DETAILS. THUS WESTERN COMMENTS SHOULD NOT GIVE DETAILS. WINTER, REPLYING TO DE STAERCKE, SAID EASTERN PROPOSAL DOES REPRESENT IMMOBILITY. REGARDING EMPHASIS ON THE COMMON CEILING, HE NOTED THAT THE LAST PLENARY HAD ADDRESSED THIS SUBJECT, AND HE REPEATED THAT HAG HAD LISTED COMMON CEILING AS A PRIORITY ITEM UNDER FUTURE TACTICS.

6. ERALP (TURKEY) STATED HIS IMPRESSION THAT ALLIES WERE UP
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AGAINST EASTERN STONEWALLING IN VIENNA. HE NOTED HINTS FROM SOVIET OFFICIALS TYING PROGRESS IN MBFR TO PROGRESS IN CSCE, AND HE ASKED IF EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAD MADE SUCH HINTS IN VIENNA. WINTER REPLIED THAT EACH TIME THE AHG SUGGESTS TO EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES THAT THERE IS SUCH A RELATIONSHIP IN THEIR MINDS, THEY ALWAYS DENY IT. PANSA NOTED THE DISCUSSION NOW UNDER WAY IN NATO ON MBFR-CSCE LINKAGE.

7. ROY (CANADA) SAID HE GENERALLY AGREED WITH DE STAERCKE THAT THE FIRST STEP PROPOSAL WAS A MOVEMENT TO IMMOBILITY. HE ASKED IF THE AHG THOUGHT THE SOVIETS WERE AWARE OF NATO DISCUSSION OF REVERSE LINKAGE, AND HAD MADE THE FIRST STEP PROPOSAL TO TRY TO CUT THE LEGS FROM UNDER THIS DISCUSSION. HE ALSO ASKED IF THE AHG

THOUGHT THIS EASTERN PROPOSAL WAS THE ONE GROMYKO WAS SPEAKING OF WHEN HE RECENTLY INDICATED A FORTHCOMING EASTERN INITIATIVE. GRANDE SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS ARE WELL AWARE OF NATO STUDY OF REVERSE LINKAGE. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS A REASON WHY THEY ARE TRYING TO SHOW MOVEMENT. AHG TENDS TO FEEL THAT PACT REPRESENTATIVES BROUGHT THEIR PROPOSAL BACK TO VIENNA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PRESENT SESSION FOR USE AT THE RIGHT MOMENT. AHG MEMBERS BELIEVE THIS IS THE INITIATIVE GROMYKO WAS TALKING ABOUT.

8. BUSCH (NORWAY) SAID HE ALSO THOUGHT THE VIENNA NEGOTIATION WAS AT A STANDSTILL. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD NOT SURPRISE US OR GIVE RISE TO PESSIMISM. WE CANNOT EXPECT THE ATMOSPHERE OF DISTRUST BETWEEN EAST AND WEST TO DISSIPATE AT AN EARLY DATE. THIS IS SOMETHING WE SHALL NEED TO LIVE WITH AND COPE WITH FOR A LONG TIME. THE EAST IS NOT IMMUNE FROM USING MBFR TO EXTRACT CONCESSIONS IN CSCE. THE WEST SHOULD SHOW THAT SUCH EASTERN EFFORTS WILL NOT WORK. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ANY ALLIED REVERSE LINKAGE COULD CAUSE A STALEMATE IN BOTH NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE WEST WOULD INCUR THE BLAME. NORWAY ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO EAST AND WEST REMAINING ON SPEAKING TERMS IN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. THE ALLIES NEED TO SEE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THESE TALKS, BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATING CONSIDERATIONS.

9. MCAULIFFE (U.S.) SAID HE FOUND A GOOD DEAL WHICH HE COULD SUPPORT IN THE BUSCH STATEMENT. HE STATED THAT THE COUNCIL WAS FORTUNATE ON OCTOBER 24 IN HEARING THE VIEWS OF THE CANADIAN SECRET

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PRIME MINISTER REGARDING THE TOTAL ISSUES OF DETENTE. THE NAC IS ABLE TO SEE MBFR, SALT, AND CSCE IN THE TOTAL POLICY CONTEXT. IT SHOULD BE NO SHOCK TO SEE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF IMMOBILITY. SOME MAY TEND TO LOSE PATIENCE, BUT WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT QUICK AND EASY SOLUTIONS ARE MORE OFTEN THAN NOT WRONG. REGARDING ALLIED PRESS TREATMENT OF WARSAW PACT LEAKS ON THE PACT PROPOSAL, HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS A TACTICAL PROBLEM, WHERE NATO AND ALLIED GOVERNMENTS SHOULD FOLLOW THE AHG LEAD.

10. MCAULIFFE NOTED THAT THE ALLIES HAVE WELL-DEFINED GOALS IN MBFR: THE COMMON CEILING, ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS IN GROUND FORCES, GETTING SOVIET TANK ARMY OUT OF NGA, UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR THE ALLIES. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. HAD MADE CERTAIN PROPOSALS IN NATO CONCERNING AIR MANPOWER AND THESE PROPOSALS WERE NOW UNDER STUDY. HE HOPED, IF THE ALLIES AGREED, THAT THE AHG MIGHT USE THE INTEREST OF THE EAST IN AIR MANPOWER TO SEE IF ALLIES COULD ACHIEVE THE IMPORTANT ALLIED GOALS, LIKE THE COMMON CEILING, AT MINIMAL COST. HE SAID THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK AT THESE ISSUES IN THE TOTAL POLICY CONTEXT.

11. PANSA SAID HE THOUGHT THE VISIT OF COUSELOR SONNEFELDT AND ASSIS-

TANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW
MIGHT BE USEFUL ON CSCE-MBFR LINKAGE AND OTHER ISSUES
RELATING TO NEGOTIATIONS.

12. NAC ACCEPTED THE DATE OF NOVEMBER 29, SUGGESTED BY AHG,
FOR THE NEXT AHG REPORT TO THE COUNCIL.
MCAULIFFE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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